

## For the Canteen

The secular papers, the liquor organs, the war department, together with others and sundry, are making a most audacious and mendacious attempt to overturn the recent congressional enactment against the canteen. They have started a campaign of education, in which they propose to prove that the abolition of the canteen has increased drinking, drunkenness and disorder in the army. For example, reports were sown broadcast in all the papers, under big headlines, flashed everywhere, also over the wires, that at the last pay day at Fort Sheridan near Chicago, the soldiers went into the town nearby, gutted the saloons, looted the town, rioted and raved in a Bacchanalian orgy, until an army had to be sent to restore peace and order. Now upon investigation by the New Voice, all these reports were proved to be outrageous lies, so conclusively proved that the big daily papers themselves do not dare to resent the open charge that they have deliberately lied. Of course no one is surprised that the liquor traffic, its abettors or its supporters whatever their stripe, will lie. It will commit the whole catalog of crime, and why should it hesitate to lie? All who are acquainted with these criminals know this too well, but we do not want anyone to be deceived with the abominable rot that the canteen is a promoter of temperance among the soldiers. It is nothing of the kind, never was and never will be. The canteen is unanimously advocated and supported by the liquor dealers themselves. Now just think of these gentry supporting an institution that promotes temperance.

## By Its Fruits

The editor of a church organ who frequently declaims against the "evils of a salaried ministry," prints in his last issue extracts from a most pathetic letter of one of his members, a sister of piety and culture, who has endeavored to bring up her children in the nurture and admonition of the church, as well as of the Lord, but who now sees her labor frustrated by a slouch of a preacher, fastened upon her congregation by the elective, non-called and non-salary system, whose bearing disgusts the intelligent young people and drives them away from the church. In this instance we have a typical illustration of the "evils of a self-supporting ministry." Your boorish, uncultivated, worldly, inconsistent preacher is a fixture and can't be got rid of. There are excellent preachers and excellent Christians in the self-supporting class, but when one of the other kind gets on deck there is no remedy at all, so long as he conforms to the order of the church, and avoids flagrant immorality. One instance of this kind in a single congregation outweighs all the real and fancied evils of the salaried ministry. Under the latter system a pastor is called by the church after a most careful scrutiny of his qualifications, as to his piety, his ability, his doctrinal soundness, his culture and his manners. When a congregation finds that it has made a mistake, the remedy is right at hand—if the case is urgent, immediate resignation; if the matter is less serious, termination of the annual contract. Now which of the two systems looks the more like common sense? The alleged "evils of the salaried ministry" are for the most part fancied evils. They do not

consist in the tax upon the congregation, for that is voluntarily assumed, and is more a means of grace than otherwise. A single consideration involves a trace of probability, and that is the temptation of the salary to unworthy covetousness. But there are very few salaries that are big enough to be a temptation, and when we institute a comparison between the preacher who gets a precarious salary of five hundred, which is much above the average, and the lay member who gives his whole time to rake in a thousand a year, or the editor of your non-salaried ministry church organ who preaches excellent discourses on paper every week for a stipulated and regularly paid salary of something like eight hundred or a thousand a year, we submit that the only point at which the salaried preacher shows to a disadvantage is, that the other fellows are better paid than he is. If the unfit preacher described by the grieved sister in her letter to our brother editor had been called by the congregation under a definite contract, he would, in the first place, probably *not be there at all*: and in the second place be speedily eliminated. There is both sense and grace in an arrangement of that kind.

## Inadequate

The English government is about to throw a tin cup full of temperance legislation on the vast conflagration of drunkenness that riots in that country, especially in the cities. What is known as the Habitual Drunkards' Bill has passed its second reading in the House of Lords, and the expectation is that it will become a law. It imposes higher penalties than for simple drunkenness, and provides that habitual drunkenness should be treated as persistent cruelty and entitle a wife to divorce. Well, have they found out at last that drunkenness is a cruelty to the wife and children? Has this fact at last bored thru the seven fold chilled steel doors of official callousness and indifference? It is astonishing even to imagine such a thing. A cruelty to wife and children, this horrible shape, this imbruted fiend this loathsome reptile, the habitual drunkard. Modern civilization, incredible as it may seem, has at last got an inkling of this awful tragedy, now some hundreds of years old. And so the wise statesmen of this luminous civilization are going to put some limit to the interesting and benevolent capers of the habitual drunkard in his family. There's nothing to be done, it appears, to stop the manufacture of habitual drunkards. Let the damnation mills go on kindling this hell fire in the bodies and souls of a multitude of victims. This is the wisdom of the wise. May God soon confound it.

## Cheap Fame

At a recent rummage sale in a large city church, a former pastor's marble bust was sold by mistake, bringing 19 cents. However it was afterwards rescued from its humiliating exile and restored to its former place in the church. It is to be hoped that the marble image of that pastor is not a type of his spiritual and pastoral impression upon his former charge. It would be a pity if his influence had become as cheap as his statue. "Why this waste" might well be asked of all this class of church ornamentation. There is plenty of costly rubbish in some fine churches.